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MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENTIAL PRESS CONFERENCE

November 20, 1962

SUBJECT: Limits of Your No-Invasion of Cuba Pledge

QUESTION: Can you clarify the precise conditions within which the "no-invasion" offer was made?

CURRENT SITUATION REPORT:

Because the public record to date remains unclear as to the scope of your "no-invasion pledge" given Premier Khrushchev on October 20, there has been much speculation about its limits. Much of this speculation has had a highly critical tone, as in pre-election comment of some Republican leaders and in stories inspired by Cuban exile groups and the more militant anti-Castro forces in the Central American nations.

Cuban refugee groups and some Latin American governments have interpreted the "no-invasion" offer as one in perpetuity, i.e., to proclaim that the U.S. will take no action against the Castro regime short of the reintroduction of aggressive weapons as matter what Castro does in the form of hostile propaganda, subversion, or other unfriendly actions against the other American Republics.

SUGGESTED WHITE IS REPLY:

My offer to pledge that the US would not invade Cuba was made in return for Soviet offers to remove offensive weapons systems from Cuba and to secure verification of this, as well as safeguards against their reintroduction into Cuba and only on those conditions. During the period of the increasing Soviet presence in Cuba it was never our policy to invade the island, unless certain things happened such as those I listed in my statement of September 13. A US non-invasion pledge will, however, in no way weaken our commitments under such Hemisphere agreements as the Rio Treaty and the Resolutions adopted last January at Punta del Este. They remain an integral part of US foreign policy.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR

REVIEWED BY

DATE 5/19/88

() RELEASE () DECLASSIFY
() EXCISE () DECLASSIFY in PART
() DENY () Non-responsive info.
FOI, EO or PA exemptions

FD authority to.

() CLASSIFY () OADR
() DOWNGRADE () S or () OADR

ARA/P:EVK:Consland/JTKing:pas:tab 11/19/62

ARA - Mr. Martin
ARA - Mr. Murvitch

TRANSCRIBED PAGE FOLLOWS

BRIEFING PAPER FOR THE PRESIDENT'S PRESS CONFERENCE

November 20, 1962

SUBJECT: Limits of Your No-Invasion of Cuba Pledge

QUESTION: Can you clarify the precise confines within which the "no-invasion" offer was made?

CURRENT SITUATION REPORT:

Because the public record to date remains unclear as to the steps of your "no-invasion pledge" given Premier Khrushchev on October 20 there has been much speculation about its limits. Much of this speculation has had a highly critical tone, as in pre-election comment of some Republican leaders and in stories inspired by Cuban exile groups and the more militant anti-Castro forces in the Central American nations.

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SUGGESTED POINTS IN REPLY:

My offer to pledge that the US would not invade Cuba was made in return for Soviet offers to remove offensive weapons systems from Cuba and to secure verification of this, as well as safeguards against their reintroduction into Cuba and only on those conditions. During the period of the increasing Soviet presence in Cuba it was never our policy to invade the island unless certain things happened such as those I listed in my statement of September 13. A US non-invasion pledge will, however in no way weaken our commitments under such Hemisphere agreements as the Rio Treaty and the Resolutions adopted last January at Punta del Este. They remain an integral part of US foreign policy.